

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for year 1943.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report for the year 1943.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector is also included.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

S.Governor,

Medical Officer of Health.

(1) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - S.Governor, M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector - D.Lister, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(ii) Population.

The population in 1943 as estimated by the Registrar General is 12,430.

(iii) Vital Statistics.

Table I - Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	86	91	177
Illegitimate	4	8	12
	90	99	189

The birth rate is 15.2 per 1000 population as compared with 16.5 for England & Wales.

Table II- Still Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	5	2	7

The rate for still births is 0.56 per 1000, almost the same as that for the whole country viz:.. 0.51.

Table III - Infantile Mortality.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	5	5	10

The Infantile Mortality rate is 52.9 per 1000 live births as compared with 49 for England & Wales.

Table IV - Deaths in the Area and Causes.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Influenza.	2	1	3
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	3	-	3
Other Tuberculosis.	1	-	1
Cancer.	15	10	25
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions.	4	7	11
Heart Disease.	9	12	21
Other Circulatory Diseases.	1	1	2
Bronchitis.	5	5	10
Pneumonia.	3	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer.	1	-	1
Diarrhoea (Under two years).	-	1	1
Digestive Diseases.	1	4	5
Nephritis.	-	1	1
Diabetes.	1	-	1
Senility.	-	-	-
Suicide.	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-
Other Violence.	4	1	5
Premature Births.	1	3	4
Puerperal Sepsis.	-	1	1
Other Defined Causes.	8	13	21
Ill Defined Causes.	1	-	1

Total.	61	61	122

The death rate for March is much lower than that for England & Wales, being 9.8 per 1000 population, as compared with 12.1.

There is very little in the above tables which requires special mention. The health of the town after five years of War compares very favourably with that of 1938. There were exactly the same number of births in 1943 as in 1938. In 1943 the deaths are 4 less than in 1938.

(IV) Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

Infectious Diseases Notified.

Measles	80
Whooping Cough	1
Scarlet Fever	40
Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	3
Total	<u>127</u>

There is an increase in the notifiable diseases, this is due to epidemics of measles and scarlet fever. During the year there were a large number of cases of Scabies, some of these were sent to Wisbech to be treated in Hospital.

There are no other items which require special mention.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year 1943.

1. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

It is not possible to give detailed figures of numbers of inspections made during 1943, as I took over the work in the middle of the year. The usual routine inspections and investigation of complaints have however been carried out and the following table shows defects found and remedied during the year by informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

	<u>Defects found.</u>	<u>Defects Remedied.</u>	<u>Outstanding at end of 1943.</u>
<u>Drainage.</u>			
Choked drains.	10	10	-
Defective drains.	5	4	1
Insufficient drainage or flooding.	4	3	1
Drainage polluting dykes.	2	1	1
Cesspools overflowing.	4	4	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences.</u>			
Defective closets, structure.	6	2	4
Defective sanitary pails.	2	2	-
Choked waterclosets.	2	2	-
<u>Other Nuisances.</u>			
Dirty Houses.	3	3	-
Nuisance from fowls.	1	1	-
" pigs.	2	2	-
Accumulations of refuse.	1	-	1
<u>Housing Defects.</u>			
Defective roofs.	9	8	1
walls.	1	1	-
eavespouts.	3	3	-
plasterwork.	2	1	1
washing accommodation.	3	3	-
doors & frames.	1	1	-
windows, woodwork.	2	2	-
" sashcords.	5	5	-
stoves or fireplaces.	4	4	-
sinks.	1	1	-
floors.	2	1	1
Unsatisfactory water supply.	1	1	-
Insufficient or defective refuse accommodation.	4	3	1
	<u>80</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>12</u>

II. HOUSING:

The general standard of housing in the area is, in common with that of almost all other districts, gradually deteriorating as the war goes on. There is scope for a considerable amount of work on clearance of unfit houses in the town, and need for a bold policy in that respect, but it is difficult to see how any progress can be made after the war until the present acute shortage of accommodation is first overcome.

From cases coming to light from time to time, it is also obvious that overcrowding is again on the increase, and the exercise of powers under the provisions of the Housing Act is hardly practicable at present in the absence of alternative accommodation.

2 unfit houses were represented to the Council during the year, for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936. In one case an undertaking not to re-let was accepted from the owner, and the premises converted for business use. The second, after discussion with the owner, was allowed to be re-let, but under certain conditions only. A third house which was found to be in a positively dangerous condition was demolished as a dangerous building after the tenant had been rehoused by the Council.

Advantage was taken of the new powers of requisition under Circular 2845 of the Ministry of Health to secure, by agreement with the owners, the use of an empty house in the town for the benefit of a family from an insanitary and overcrowded house.

III. MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:

(a) Meat. During the year, the number of animals killed at the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in the town was as follows:-
Cows 178; Other bovines 703; Calves 305; Sheep 1803;
Pigs 479; Total 3468.

100% inspection is aimed at, and can usually be attained, but only by considerable overtime work, much of the killing taking place in the evenings. Mention must be made of the assistance afforded by the slaughterhouse staff, in particular the slaughterhouse manager, without whose help the work would be almost impossible.

Condemnations during the year included the following whole carcasses:- Cows 23; Other bovines 13; Calves 3; Sheep 4; Pigs 8; Total 51; together with a quantity of offals and parts of carcasses bringing the total weight of meat condemned up to 12 tons 19 cwt. 22 lb.

This is a slight increase on the previous year, but less than in 1941.

Many of the condemnations are from casualty animals and cases of emergency slaughter, which fact reflects adversely on the percentages given in the table below:-

	Cows	Other Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number of Animals killed.	178	703	305	1803	479	3468
<u>Condemnations:</u> <u>Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses	13	8	-	-	3	24
Part carcasses and/or organs	56	65	-	-	13	134
Percentage of animals affected with Tuberculosis	38.8	10.4	-	-	3.3	4.6
<u>Condemnations:</u> <u>Other Causes</u> Whole carcasses	10	5	3	4	5	27
Part carcasses and/or organs	30	76	2	4	26	138
Percentage of animals affected with other diseases	22.5	11.5	1.6	0.4	6.5	4.8

28 lb. of imported beef was also condemned for bone taint.

(b) Other Foods. Many inspections were made during the year of stocks of other foodstuffs, and the following were condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

(i) Tinned Goods.	<u>No. of Tins.</u>	<u>weight, lbs.</u>
Meat.	76	244
Fish.	70	51½
Vegetables.	116	161
Milk.	78	123
Jam.	33	38
Fruit.	65	118½
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	438	736
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Other Foods Condemned.

(ii) Miscellaneous:	<u>weight, lbs.</u>
Bacon.	21¼
Barley Powder.	30
Biscuits.	1894
Butter.	14
Cheese.	9½
Custard & Blancmange Powder.	2072
Dried Egg.	1
Flour.	166
Ground Almond Substitute.	896
Margarine.	21
Sausage Meal.	112
Sugar.	48

	5285½

In some instances, bad storage conditions or faults in handling or distribution were found to be the cause of food being rendered unfit. All these cases were followed up with a view to preventing a recurrence. Wherever possible, condemned material was utilized for animal feeding.

All the unsound food was voluntarily surrendered, and in no case was formal seizure under the Food & Drugs Act required.

IV. MILK AND DAIRIES:

At the end of the year, 21 persons were registered as producers of milk in the district, and the number of cows in milk was approximately 200. 18 producers dispose of their milk mainly by wholesale, and the remaining 3 are retail purveyors. There are in addition 3 other persons registered as retail purveyors, who are not producers.

Most of the premises can be said to comply with the letter of the Milk and Dairies Order as to construction, but many are below the generally accepted standard for clean milk production. It was gratifying during the year to note that the Ministry of Agriculture through the War Agricultural Executive Committees decided to close the door to new entrants to milk production until their premises were first made satisfactory. Some such power given to the Local Authorities many years ago would have prevented the establishment of so many unsatisfactory farms in the milk trade, some of them still requiring to be brought up to standard.

Cowsheds and dairies are regularly visited, and a few warnings had to be given in respect of minor contraventions of the Orders during the year. One cowkeeper was reported to the Council with a view to proceedings being taken for filthy conditions found on his premises in spite of repeated cautioning. A strong letter was sent as a final warning from the Council, but this cowkeeper subsequently went out of the trade.

One new farm dairy was erected during the year, this being for a new entrant to the trade. The farm has since become "Accredited".

4 licences to produce "Accredited" and 2 to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk were in force in the district at the end of the year.

One dairyman in the district holds a licence for a pasteurising plant, and is handling a large proportion of the milk from local farms. The "holder" method of pasteurisation is employed. Samples from this dairy show the treatment to be efficient.

V. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

3 informal notices were served during the year with regard to sanitary accommodation; one for insufficient accommodation, one for W.C.'s not effectively screened, and the third for insanitary conditions found. All were complied with.

VI. TABLE OF NOTICES SERVED DURING 1943.

No statutory notices were served during the year.

<u>Informal Notices.</u>	<u>Served during 1943.</u>	<u>Complied with by 31/12/43.</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts.		
Verbal	38	33
Letter	24	18
Food & Drugs Act 1938.		
Verbal	6	4
Letter	1	1
Meat Regulations 1924.		
Verbal	1	1
Milk & Dairies Order 1926.		
Verbal	9	9
Letter	1	1
Factories Act 1937.		
Verbal	2	2
Letter	1	1
Shops Act 1934 (Sec.10)		
Verbal	1	1
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	84	71
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I am, Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.Lister,

Sanitary Inspector.